To His EXCELLENCIE, The LORD-GENERAL CROMVVEL:

And all the honeſt Officers and Souldiers in the Army, for the Common-wealth of ENGLAND.

The HUMBLE REMONSTRANCE

Of many Thouſands in, and about the City of

LONDON,

On the behalf of all the

FREE-COMMONERS of ENGLAND.

London city com

SHEWETH,

THat the 22 of *March* 1648. the Parliament declared, That they were truſted by the People, for the Common good, and to procure the wel-being of thoſe whom they ſerve; and to remove Oppreſſion and Arbitrary power, and all oppoſitions to the Peace and Freedom of this Nation; and that they intend the Common Intereſt of thoſe whom they ſerve, more then their own particulars: And they then promiſed the due Reformation of the Law, for the taking away of corruption & abuſes, delays, vexations and unneceſſary travel and expences, and whatſoever ſhould be found really burthenſom to the People, that evil might be puniſhed, & the good rewarded, and the People be eaſed in their burthens and Taxes, and the Debts of the Commonwealth be juſtly ſatisfied. But alas! with grieved hearts we have long expected ſome fruit of their promiſes, and that multitude of dayes ſhould utter knowledge: Yet all in vain, inſomuch that we can no longer forbear, but ſhew our

grievances,for they are many and intolerable. My Lord,there was a time, when your Excellency, and our unparelel'd Army was in a low condition, and in your ſtraights,you affirmed, that you called upon God, and He heard you, and delivered you in your diſtreſs; ſure God was pleaſed with you in that, for He gave your Enemies into your hands,and ſetled the ſoles of your feet in peace, gave you large poſſeſſions,houſes that you built not:was al this that youonly might live in peace, eaſe and reſt, and ſay you have married Wives, have Farms, Parks, Manours,and Kingly houſes to ſee; and forget the vows you then made? ſurelyno.Are the People free ?is perfect liberty wrote for them ? or are your vows quite forgotten ? Is not the ſafety of the People the ſupream Law ? Nay, are not you the Peoples Army,and have they not paid you ? Are your promiſes yet performed? Why are you ſo remiſs in the Work of the Lord? why do the People yet complain ? Is not Juſtice as neceſſary now, as when the Parliament began? Our eyes have been upon you,but our hope is in God; and though we be yet clouded,and in the dark,yet deliverance will come, and we ſhall not be deceived

And though the ſons of *Zerviah* have ſeemed too ſtrong for you; yet if your Excellency now appear, all the honeſt Members,which have not bowed their knees to *Baal*, will to a man ſecond you,and make good every ſillable of that Declaration, and revive the Self-denying Ordinance, and ſcorn to ſit with a company of mercinary Lawyers,who poiſon the Counſels of the Parliament,and turn Juſtice and Judgment to gall and wormwood,meerly to inrich themſelves by the ruin of the People. Then your Excellencie and thoſe honeſt Members may forthwith paſs an Act, to authorize the Juſtices of Peace, to keep a Court in their ſeveral Counties, twice a week, in the moſt convenient place in each Countie, to hear and determin all matters of Debt,Titles of Lands,and other Civil differences,the ſame day they be brought before them, and put the People to no more charge, but their attendance, according to the practice of the Court of Requeſts, *London*, ſitting in Guild-hall, by vertue of an Act of Parliament,made in the third year of King *James*, and the 25 Chapter.

Then your Excellencie and thoſe honeſt Members, may forthwith paſs the annexed Act,to authorize Commiſſioners of known fidelitie, for the ſpeedy examination and redreſs of all the Peoples grievances; though the ſeveral Committees appointed by Parliament, have

have done little or nothing therein. And then we ſhall ſee an Act to ſettle an Annual equal Repreſentative, and Indentures drawn between the Repreſentors, and the Repreſentative Counties, that we may no longer truſt in man; but have it known to the world, That the PEOPLE are the Legiſlative power, and that all that are entruſted by them, muſt act for them, and be accomptable to them: Surely then may there be found men of ſuch pure Principles, that will not forget the Self-denying Ordinance, nor be ſeduced by the Clergie to act in Spirituals, when their Commiſſion is for Temporals. Then ſhall thoſe faithful Perſons who hazarded all for the Parliament, and many of them lent more then their whole Eſtates, and now live in priſon, nay, ſtarve for want of it, not to be put to uncover Cathedrals, and ranſack the Monuments of the dead; but be honeſtly paid with thanks and requitals. Then ſhould not the Publick-Faith be out-pawned, and ſo little care taken to redeem it, whileſt Milions of Treaſure hath been conveyed beyond the Seas.

Then ſhould there be a new little Book of only uſefull Statutes, portable, that thoſe that ſhould keep them may know them; and not a Voluminous Idol, the ſtudie of Lawyers their whol life-time, to teach the People at great coſt, and with the hazard of their lives. Then ſhall Juſtice be done at the charge of the State, as of old, the poor fear no bribes, and the Peoples whole Inheritance not ſpent every hundred year, or leſs, in tedious and uſeleſs ſuits in Law, without accompt or puniſhment. Then ſhould not poor Souldiers Debenters be ſould for a Twentieth part, and the benefit of the reſt redound to their enemies. Nor the honeſt Souldier pay twice for his Quarter, whileſt your bloudy Enemies are forgiven plunder and outrages. Was not this the price of their bloud? And wo be to him that erecteth a City by bloud, &c. Nor the honeſt Souldier that would not do all things, laid aſide without place or pay, and ſtarve for want thereof; whileſt unworthy perſons are imployed both by Sea and Land in very great truſt, to the loſing the Honor of the Nation, gotten by the bloud and treaſure of thoſe who are now laid aſide. Nor ſhould the honeſt ſufferer for the Parliament be left without all proviſion, as if they had no bodies promiſe for it. Nor ſhould there be a five-pound Act, a meer deceit, as it is now uſed, while men of Eſtates lie in the upper-Bench, and other priſons, and cheat the People, and their Land unſold. Nor the poor diſtreſſed Proteſtants of *Ireland*, that loſt their Eſtates, and fled

hither for their lives, ſtarve here, and no accompt rendred of the Moneys that was collected for them, both in *England*, and elſewhere: and many of their bloudy Enemies ſuffered to be releaſed out of priſon.

Then ſhould the head of no injuſtice ſtand upon any ſhoulders, ſince for that the late King loſt his. Then ſhould perjuries, forgeries, and briberies, which are grown to a great head amongſt us be puniſhed, though the Committee do little or nothing therein. Nor ſhould Death be inflicted for a trifle of five ſhillings, (a thing called Felony) whilſt vaſt ſums are taken from the Commonwealth, without any accompt, by Committee-men, and others. Then ſhould the poor be provided for, both in Goals, and without, at leaſt by their own, and poor Sea-men invited home, by certainty of pay, and aſſurance of a competent ſhare of the prize goods, and liberty to adventure five pounds a man, or more, according to their place or quality, in every Merchants ſhip, as in Queen *Elizabeths* dayes: this will endear them unto the States, and Lenity doth break more hearts then Sequeſtration. Then ſhould Timber, the ſinews of war by Sea, be planted and preſerved; and not ſold to the Hollanders. Then ſhould Eſquire *Elliot*, and *Edward Jinks* not be ſtifled in that infamous priſon of New-gate; but be inforced to make good their Charges againſt the ſeveral Members, or to be puniſhed ſeverely.

My Lord, many of us were of this Army under your own command, we fought for our liberties, our bloud, and our eſtates are in it, and we are witneſſes that your Excellency promiſed it unto us, and ſo did the Parliament, what can be anſwered in this caſe? for when you wanted power, our lives was not dear to us; and now you have power, our lives and liberties ought to be dear to you and them, and not ſuffer us to ſtarve through oppreſſion; is not this the time? the work is great; the children of *Anack* are mighty men, and have Cities walled high, yet fear them not; for the good Land is before your Excellency; and if you will not enter in before us, but murmure, your carcaſſes may be ſlain in the wilderneſſe, or you may be ſtung with fiery Serpents; and yet deliverance ſhall come, for the ſpirits anointing, cauſed the people to deſtroy the yoke of the late King, and God hath promiſed, that the feet of the poor, and the ſteps of the needy, ſhall tread down them that dwell on high, *Eſa.* 10 27. *Eſa.* 26. 5, 6. would you have us think that God ſeeth not injuſtice in a Commonwealth as wel as in a Kingly Government, or that our freedom

freedom consisteth in having the name of priviledge of Parliament, instead of Kingly Prerogative; or, *The Keepers of the Liberties of England*, instead of *Charles by the grace of God*, &c. Notwithstanding the same injustice and arbitrary power remaineth; nay, and is much encreased; for shame up and be doing; we beseech you consider what will become of your posterities too, as well as ours; let no man take your honour from you, nor delude you, and lay your honour in the dust: for we professe to all the world, that whatsoever injustice, whatever we want of perfect freedom and liberty, what bloud is not expiated, what treasure is mis-spent, all our complaints are before your Excellency, and the Army, and must remain with you, and be charged upon you; therefore if you will rise like a mighty Giant refreshed with wine, and scorn a gift that blindes the eyes of the wise, and pervert the righteous in judgment, and go forth in the strength of our God, then shall the Work of the Lord prosper in your hands. But if you will not, but say, there is a Lion in the way, and forget your vowes and promises, and lead us back again into *Egypt*; and say, the same old Kingly spirit in a new name shal reign, we shall be inforced to cease from your Excellency, and lift up our eyes to the hills, and expect deliverance some other way. O how can we expect to have injustice in Superiors punished speedily, and not left to succeeding Parliaments, and men starve the mean while in prison; when every man is left to act arbitrarily, and men accused of Treason, suffered to sit in the House? Nay, some of us, will with our lives make good, that there be some in the House that are utter enemies to the peace and safety of the Nation. O how shall we be able to discern our friends from our foes in the House, except the faithful Members do declare their protest to the People whom they serve, against all those that act contrary to their trust, oppugning the Law of God, the Law of the Land, and the Law of Nature; for we humbly conceive, this is the ready way to ease them and you of your endlesse trouble, and secure the Commonwealth from future dangers and miseries; for, do we not see with what extream difficulty you produce any thing that looketh like justice? and how can we expect that the grievances of the People should be redressed, when an eminent Member of the House and Councel of State, professed he would oppose the discovery of the grievances, both in House and Councel of State, when there was offered four millions to have it done? as witnesse the ensuing Engagement.

To the Right Honourable the Councel of State.

Right Honourable,

WE whose names are underwritten, out of a desire to discharge a good conscience, and zeal to promote the good and welfare of this our native country, do hereby engage our lives and fortunes; to produce and prosecute such discoveries of notorious treacheries, and concealment of publick treasures and lands, as wil probably raise, at the least four millions of treasure, for the use of the State; which we conceive may be for the constant pay of the Army, and prevent the selling of their Arrears at under rates and to ease the grieved and discontented people of this Nation, from all assessments whatsoever, for the space of four years next ensuing; provided, that this honourable Councel be pleased forthwith to draw up the form of an Act, to authorize Commissioners for the examination of all manner of grievances whatsoever, and all direct or indirect concealment of publick treasure, and present the same to the Parliament for the speedy passing thereof, before any further adjournment, or any Act of generall pardon be concluded; and likewise that this Honourable Councel would be pleased to afford from time to time an effectuall assistance in the prosecution of the aforesaid discoveries, for the good of the Commonwealth, the better to indear the affections of the people to the Parliament, Army, Navy, and this honourable Councel, in the initiation of this present government. Given under our hands this 4. of *Sept.* 1649.

William Pendred,
John Bernard,
Jeffery Corbet,
Devereux Gardioner,
William Hill,
William Bernard.
William Reex,
Miles Arendale,
Robert Coalman,
William Harrison,
Henry Mallow,

Can any men be so void of reason, as to perswade us that they can be true to their trust, who act so contrary to the safety of the nation, and refuse such an offer as this? doth it not declare that they are guilty persons? we beseech you Gentlemen consider, that God will not be mocked (*Gal.* 6. 7.), though you and the corrupt members of the house, have very sufficiently mocked this nation for divers years past, feeding us with shals and shals; but truly we never knew good words fill the bellies of the hungry, nor cloath the backs

backs of the naked. Oh how have we been betrayed both by ſea and land! and when men ſhun the light, it is becauſe their deeds are evill, *Iohn* 3.19,20,21. and hence it is, that ſo many do oppoſe a new Repreſentative; how can any rational man think it ſafe to confide in ſuch unfaithful truſtees, who neither diſcharge their truſt repoſed in them, nor make conſcience of their oaths nor promiſes, in paying their debts; but let the moſt faithful friends of the Commonwealth lie ſtarving in all corners of the Commonwealth? and yet they can take care to provide for our enemies, by an Act of free pardon. O how do theſe, and a multitude of other actions declare their unfaithfulneſſe! certainly they are not the men whom we choſe, if they be we were deceived in them, and will no longer truſt in them, but will have all Traitors, Cheaters, Arbitrary actors, and betrayers of their truſt, called to a ſtrict accompt, that ſo many induſtrious families may not ſtarve through oppreſſion. The Prophet teileth us that Chriſt is juſt, *Zachary* 9.9. therefore we will never own any other King but him, he ſhall be our King and our Law-giver, and at his feet will we ſacrifice our lives, and all that is dear unto us, *Iſa.* 33.22. *Iames* 4.12. therefore all thoſe that are for Chriſt and juſtice, let them declare themſelves, that we may know and own them, and then we ſhall adhere to them even from *Dan* to *Beer-ſheba*; for we are reſolved, that all thoſe that have been faithfull in the Houſe, Army, Navy, and Commonwealth, by owning of Chriſt, and ſtanding for Juſtice, ſhall be had in ſingular honour, and ſhall ſhine like ſtars in the firmament; and thoſe that ſtand for Antichriſt, in the oppoſing juſtice, or oppreſſing the people, ſhall like clods of dirt, or unſavory ſalt, be thrown to the dung-hill, and there remain, *Math.* 5.13. for we do clearly ſee that we are ſold to the bloudy butchers of Rome, but we are reſolved we will not be delivered up to them.

Therefore we beſeech you before it be too late, to go with us to the Houſe door, and not depart thence, till we have an Act for a Committee, to diſcover and redreſſe the grievances of the Commonwealth, that ſo thoſe that have betrayed their truſt, and ſold us to Antichriſt, may reap the fruit of their treachery; for theſe men, as they ſtand corrupted, will never let us have a new Repreſentative: How many moneths, nay, years we think, have they ſpent in contriving a way for a new Repreſentative, and will not do it? But we doubt not, but a Committee of upright un-byaſſed men, wil

quickly

quickly find out the *Achans*, and the execrable things; which will so unite us together in love, and raise such a vast Bank of treasure, and perpetuall revenue, as will make this Nation a terrour to the whole earth; and then our trustees may carry on the work of the Nation with ease and chearfulness. And we do heartily beseech you, as you tender the safety of your own persons, families, estates, and this whole Commonwealth, that you do forthwith call a Generall Councel, that so we may not be betrayed in our discoveries, nor destroyed for our fidelity to our Countrey: And then we shall discover a most dangerous design, tending to the destruction both of Army and Commonwealth; for God hath made the hearts of those men fat, and their ears heavy, that they will not hear the cry of the poor, *Isa.* 6.10. Therefore they shal cry, and not be heard, *Pro.* 21.13. They are Phisicians of no value; they will not cure us, but rather make our wounds deeper and wider: but the Son of Righteousness wil arise with healing on his wings, *Mal.* 4.2. and all Nations, people, or persons, that will not submit to his Government, and let him rule over them, shall be destroyed, *Luk.* 19 27. *Isa.* 60.12. For behold the day commeth that shall burn as an Oven, and all the proud, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shal burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch, *Mal.* 4.1.

And now my Lord, and Gentlemen all, we do humbly spread these things before you, conceiving our condition just paralel with *Pauls*, when the ship was between *Sylla* and *Charibdis*; and as we know you in your full condition, swiming in prosperity, cannot be without strong temptations, neither can you conceive, that we can be free from the like and greater; for you know what oppression will make wise men do *Eccles.* 7.7. Therefore if we in our sinking condition shall catch at any thing, hoping to be delivered by it, and if it prove to be our destruction; we do appeal unto God, Angels and Men, whether you shal not answer for all the bloud which shal be spilt upon this account, or no? For we dare call the most high God to record, our consciences also witnessing with us, that we have nothing in our eye but the preserving of this Nation from perpetual slavery, or from suddain destruction by unsatiable, bloudy monsters: and so we do commit both you, and these Lines into the hands of that God, who is able to give them such a setting-on upon your spirits, that both sleep and food shal depart from you, until you by joyning with us have put us into a safe posture.

FINIS.